



Burk's Falls & District Historical Society Newsletter



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Heritage Festival Recap

Despite a tornado warning, the Heritage Festival on July 12, 2025 was a success. This year, the Heritage Festival featured a vendors market, live music, a petting zoo, and more!

Thank you to the Township of Armour, volunteers, donors, and event organizers who make this festival possible every year.



Southeast Almaguin Firefighter Challenge

The Firefighter Challenge was a fun and exciting competition for the crowd. This competition showcases the strength and teamwork of the fire departments in Almaguin.

Congratulations to the Magnetawan Fire Station for their second win in a row!



Dunk-a-Politician

Festival-goers had the opportunity to try and dunk a local politician in the dunk tank!

This year's politicians included:

- **Sean Cotton** (Deputy Mayor for Burk's Falls)
- **Rod Ward** (Mayor of Armour Township)
- **Dan Robertson** (Councillor for Ryerson Township)
- **Dorothy Haggart-Davis** (Councillor for Armour Township)
- **Bryan Austin** (By-law Officer)
- **Jon Hind** (Councillor for Magnetawan)



Classic Car Show

The Car Show at the Heritage Festival offers visitors a chance to view a wide array of classic cars and tractors that have been kept in pristine condition.



Congratulations to Brian Penrose for winning the Heritage Festival Car Show Award for his 1965 Shelby Cobra!

This award is etched onto a historic trophy kept at the Watt Century Farmhouse.



Thank you to Matthew Orr at Skyview Aerial Imaging for sharing your Heritage Festival images!

Interesting Facts

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The Great Fire of 1908

- On June 20th, 1908, fire broke out at the Knight Brothers Co. Factory drying kiln around 6:30 a.m.
- The fire burnt all of the Knight Brothers' spring inventory, costing them a total of \$25,000 (\$685,000 in 2025).
- The intense wind pushed the fire down Ontario Street, burning many homes and businesses.
- To save the books in the library, drapes were placed on the floor and the books were wrapped in them and taken outside. Thankfully, the library was not harmed by the fire.
- People in the Burk Hotel placed their valuables in a pit in the ground. Unfortunately, the valuables melted together from the intense heat.
- Afterwards, Burk's Falls implemented a by-law that all new buildings on Ontario Street would be made of brick and stone.



Watt Century Farm House

📍 827 Chetwynd Road, Burk's Falls



Come visit the Watt Century Farm House where we have a large range of antique farming equipment on display, as well as an antique hearse.

This is a horse-drawn hearse. It was originally owned by Joseph Fredrick Hilliar, then Tom Dempster, and then Charlie Allair. It was sold to Dave Opatovsky when he purchased the funeral home.

Wiseman's Corner Schoolhouse

📍 112 Midlothian Road, Burk's Falls

Another fun place to visit is the Wiseman's Corner Schoolhouse! Visitors can see relics from a local school that was active from 1893 to 1960.



Here, visitors can also see the replica of the S.S. Armour built by Ab Culbert. The original steamboat was built in 1906 by a crew led by George Stickland.

Mystery Items



A Canadian naval uniform was found in a suitcase at the Wiseman's Corner Schoolhouse. Inside the jacket, it is written that it was made by Miller & Gabbe Limited in 1951. The items also have the name W. Miller and the service number 57030-H attached to them.

If you have any more information regarding these items, please contact us at info@burksfallsdistricthistoricalsociety.com

Become a Member!

Help preserve our area's local history by becoming a member of the Burk's Falls & District Historical Society. Members gain access to newsletters, information on upcoming programs, and exhibition previews.

Annual Individual Membership: **\$10.00**

Annual Family Membership: **\$20.00**



Contact us:

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